



UTAH

Agriculture

NEWS

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WINTER 2006

Utah's Own Campaign is Growing Strong

Utah shoppers are responding well to the "Utah's Own" marketing campaign that is aimed at identifying locally produced foods in grocery stores. Utah's Own is a coalition of growers, manufacturers, store owners and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF).

The "Utah's Own" Program is a major focus to help consumers increase their awareness and demand for Utah food and agricultural products within Utah.

Utah's Own is designed to create a consumer culture to think of and purchase products made and grown right here in Utah. The economic benefit is obvious as the dollars spent by Utah consumers stay in Utah. Not only does it increase profits for local producers and businesses, but depending on the product purchased, it has a multiplying affect of up to three times or more in stimulating the overall economy. The results include a greater tax



Participating stores displayed the distinctive Utah's Own labels on their shelves during the many promotional events conducted this year.

What is Utah's Own?

Utah's Own is a campaign to encourage Utahans to think about and buy products made and grown right here in Utah. Utah grown foods are fresher and more nutritious than foods shipped from far away states or countries.

base, new jobs and an enhanced environment made possible because of the stronger economic situation of local growers and producers.

The Marketing Division received funds from the 2006 State Legislature to promote Utah's Own. Using those funds judiciously and appropriately to educate consumers while benefiting the largest number of businesses and producers is our number one priority. To leverage these funds we have initially partnered with Associated Food Stores and Bonneville Radio Group.

The campaign includes the Utah's Own jingle (located at: http://utahsown.utah.gov/cons_home.php) and ads airing since April 2006 on various radio stations that are far reaching and meet the criteria for our targeted demographic. Participating Utah's Own companies were able to display at Associated Food Stores Annual Food Show in early April and have since been included in their warehouse or otherwise gained access to stores by cross-docking their product or direct store delivery. These same companies are also receiving space in Associated Food Stores ads and airtime during live-remotes with radio personalities at selected stores. The results are that while educating consumers, we are creating new marketing opportunities and increased sales for local food companies.

Utah's own campaign has been very exciting and rewarding," said Marketing Division Director, Jed Christenson. "Companies of all sizes and various levels of maturity have been participating, and it seem to be benefitting financially." Specifically, one of the larger companies indicted they had been just breaking even for the months prior to the campaign, but increased their sales by several hundred thousand dollars during May. Smaller companies that



KSL's Amanda Dickson conducts a live radio interview with Sondra Latham, owner of Tom's Gourmet Toppings, during one of many promotional events for Utah's Own this year.

don't have brand recognition would not have had the opportunity to be in Associated Food Stores' warehouse or have direct store delivery privileges without the campaign. In some cases, it has allowed them to increase their sales by 200 to 300 percent. Given their size and newness in the market, there is no way they could have afforded or mounted such an effective advertising campaign on their own.

The campaign is helping these companies increase their sales, hire new employees, contract for additional services from other Utah companies, and are paying more taxes. Most of the participating companies are talking about expanding their production. Two are planning new production facilities that will cost several million dollars to build. Early indications from the campaign are that Utah's Own is working.

Other opportunities to promote Utah's Own are being explored and planned well into 2007. Those include expanding into other radio and TV markets, the State Fair, additional grocery partners and more. To sustain this newly established successful effort, the Marketing Division will approach the legislature about receiving ongoing funds to continue stimulating and building our local economy through the Utah's Own Program.

An interactive Utah's Own website provides ongoing contacts and links for networking as well. Consumers will also be able to benefit from the website by accessing educational information, introduction of newly produced local products, and directions to Farmers Markets and other direct market opportunities.

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Commissioner's Message

I have recently returned from very productive meetings with our new state and regional grazing advisory boards located in five regions of the state: Northwest, Northeast, Central, Southwest, and Southeast. These five local groups will help us create policy and design programs to improve the quality of our open grazing lands. These groups have recently been organized, and I expect excellent progress throughout the year.

The creation of these boards is part of our new Grazing Improvement Program (GIP). The regional boards will offer input to a larger State Grazing Board that will work with our department and other state and federal agencies to ultimately establish programs to improve our rangelands.

The significant point here is that grazing will be used as a tool to maintain healthy open range lands. We will undo some of the harm done by past management policies. These boards will work to create policy and on-the-ground programs that will pay off with healthy rangelands and healthy ecosystems. Our projects will employ proven management practices that are compatible with good environmental stewardship and conservation practices.

I also want to report on the celebration of a significant milestone here at the Department. Our Agriculture Resource Development Loan Program (ARDL) turned 30 years old this September, a tribute to its success and effectiveness in the agriculture community.



Leonard M. Blackham, Utah
Commissioner of Agriculture and Food

Our Division of Regulatory Services is launching a first-of-its-kind web based food inspection system. This innovative system is driven by data collected at retail outlets and focuses our inspections on areas of greatest impact regarding human health and safety. I am certain it will become a model for other regulatory agencies in our region.

These are just a few of the exciting programs underway at the department. I look forward to briefing you on some of our other milestones in the coming issues of Agriculture News.

Agriculture Advisory Board

Focus on: Dolores Gossner Wheeler
Food Processing Industry

Editor's note: Utah Agriculture News will be introducing readers to members of the Agriculture Advisory Board. This article spotlights the board's Food Processing Industry representative, Dolores Gossner Wheeler.



Dolores is the president and Chief Executive Officer, & Chairperson of the Board of Gossner Foods, Inc., headquartered in Logan Utah. Dolores is one of five newly appointed members to the board in 2006. She represents the Utah Food Processing industry.

As President of Gossner Foods, Dolores continues the long family leadership of one of Utah's most recognizable agribusiness names. Dolores began her career at Gossner Foods in 1966. She worked in a number of different positions in the company and in October 1984 was appointed as President, CEO and Chairman of the Board. Dolores is supportive of many of the small farming communities in Northern Utah and Southern Idaho including 4-H programs, the National FFA Association, and the Boy Scouts of America. Dolores will share the history of Gossner Foods and how her philosophy of "Go For It" helped to develop her career.

Dolores leads a tour of the Gossner Foods plant in Logan during a recent Ag. Advisory Board meeting. She said that the company strives to create a positive work environment where employees enjoy their jobs and are therefore very productive.



Job Well Done

Outgoing Agricultural Advisory Board members are congratulated by (left) Chairman, Arthur Douglas and (right) Commissioner Leonard Blackham. Retiring members: (from 2nd from left) Merl M. Thurgood, 10 years, Utah Horse Industry; Dr. James Eaton, 11 years, Utah Veterinary Medical Association; Carma Wadley, 16 years, Consumers' Representative; Monty Weston, two years, Utah Cattlemens Association; Jamie Gillmore, two years, Utah Wool Growers Association.

ARDL Celebrates 30 Years of Success

Lt. Governor Gary Herbert and Commissioner Blackham honored nine farmers and ranchers during a two-hour celebration at the Salt Lake Little America Hotel Tuesday, October 17, 2006.

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food's (UDAF) \$56 million Agriculture Resource Development Loan Program (ARDL) celebrated its 30th anniversary during a special program. The ARDL program is credited with helping hundreds of farmers remain in business, strengthen Utah's rural economy and improve the environment.

BACKGROUND

ARDL is a low-interest loan program that encourages farmers and ranchers to make improvements to their operations such as adding more efficient irrigation systems, or planting grasses on their livestock rangeland. These improvements increase their production while helping care for the state's natural resources. Most ARDL recipients are more profitable which means they contribute to their local economy. A secondary benefit is the protection of open space. Financially stable farms and ranches are able to be passed down to the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

"We've enjoyed 30 years of a very successful program and we are pleased to honor several outstanding farmers and ranchers," said Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Leonard Blackham. "Our celebration will also help kick off the next phase of our program by introducing the Grazing Improvement Program."

GIP is a program that is intended to help Utah's \$600 million livestock and grazing industry by supporting ecologically sound grazing practices and strengthening the voice of ranching during the public policy debate. By making ranching more profitable, the program is helping to strengthen the economy of rural Utah.

UDAF Marketing Deputy Leads National Organization

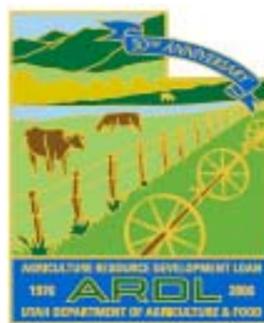
The National Association of State Organics Programs (NASOP) elected UDAF's Deputy Director of Marketing and Development, Seth Winterton, as President, during the group's annual meeting in May.

NASOP provides states with the tools to help promote or regulate the production, handling and certification of organic products and services.

"Our goal is to raise the awareness of the organic programs in our states, and help farmers and ranchers find new markets for their products," said Winterton, the department's organic program coordinator. Marketing Division Director Jed Christenson stated, "Having a member of our Department elected as National President is a great distinction for Utah, and honor for Seth. It speaks highly of the reputation he has gained around the country and respect for Utah's Organic Program."

Seth has been with the Department for 19 years gaining experience in meat inspection, animal control and investigations. This experience, along with the relationships he has developed over the years has made him a real asset to farmers and ranchers wanting to take advantage of the rapidly growing demand for organic products. Seth was named Deputy Director of the Division of Marketing and Development in March 2005.

The organic food program certified over 85,000 acres of production farm and pasture ground in 2006. This includes such commodities as wheat, safflower, barley, oats, corn and grass. The newest addition to Utah organics is the dairy industry for the production of organic milk and cheese. The program continues to certify organic lamb and beef. With the growth of organic livestock production, there is a need to increase the production of feed grains for both cattle and sheep. Utah has a strong organic process/handling program. The wheat that is grown in Utah is made into high protein organic flour. There is garden produce being sold at farmers markets that is certified organic. There is a need for more organic row crop farmers to fill the slots at local farmers markets with their fresh local products. The demand for organic exceeds the supply and organic products are bringing a premium at the local markets.



Resource Conservation is Everyone's Business.

Read more about ARDL and GIP, and see a video on how the programs help Utah farmers and ranchers at www.ag.utah.gov.

Food Inspection Goes Digital As It Works To Cut Foodborne Illness

When a new computerized inspection system goes on line later this year, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) food inspectors will more accurately track food handling violations and reduce the incidents of foodborne illness. The Food Safety Management System is a newly developed, web-based tool, specially designed by UDAF Food Safety Supervisor, Becky Shreeve and Information Technology Manager, Ken Gee.

"There are few other states that have such a system," said Shreeve. This will allow us to better understand what kinds of food handling violations are occurring, and how best to eliminate them," she added. The program is designed to help grocery stores and food manufacturers protect public health.

When fully operational, the division's 12 food inspectors will enter inspection reports on their laptop computers. The information will then be added to the main system via the Internet. The inspection report data can then be compiled to track trends and specific problems.

"This is a tool for store and plant managers to see where their food handling practices are going right or wrong. It helps them focus their training and energies in areas that need attention," said Shreeve.



Charles Taylor - Box Elder Co.

Darrell Johnson - Tooele Co.

(left) Lt. Gov. Gary Herbert and (right) Commissioner Blackham present the 'Lifetime ARDL Conservationist Award' to nine special recipients.



Jerrold Richins - Summit Co.

Kent Bateman - Juab Co.



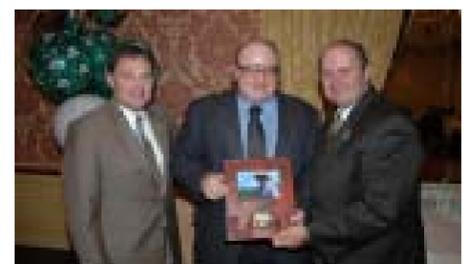
Norm Carroll - Kane Co.

Allan Smith - Duchesne Co.



Merrill Duncan - Emery Co.

Brad Johnson - Sevier Co.



David Pace - Sevier Co.



(Above) UDAF Inspector, Ron Ivie checks for the correct temperature of chicken at a local grocery store. (Below) He then records the temperature in his computer that is linked to the main system via a wireless Internet hookup. Eventually, the system will produce information that will help stores improve their food handling practices.



Bill Hopkin to Direct Grazing Improvement Program

Salt Lake City, Utah — The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food announces the appointment of William J. (Bill) Hopkin as the Director of the Department's new Grazing Improvement Program (GIP). The GIP program is a new initiative introduced by Commissioner Leonard Blackham aimed at improving livestock and wildlife range conditions.

"I am excited at the prospect of leading this new program that means so much to Utah's rural communities," said Hopkin.

"I am honored to be part of Commissioner Blackham's forward-moving team to improve resource health and agricultural stability," he added.

The GIP program is receiving widespread support throughout the livestock industry for its goal to improve Utah's soils, forage and watersheds. The program is also intended to boost Utah's rural economies in a sustainable fashion. The Utah Legislature supported GIP by passing the Rangeland Improvement Act, and appropriating funds to facilitate the program.



Richard Clark appointed Regulatory Services Director

Commissioner Leonard M. Blackham announces the appointment of Richard W. Clark as Director of the Division of Regulatory Services. Clark joined the Department May 30, and oversee the division's 46 employees who perform a variety of food safety and consumer regulatory functions. Clark has spent 26 years in the food safety industry, 16 years of which were in management positions.

He is a former Director of the Utah Department of Health's Bureau of Food Safety and Environmental Health. He has also served as an Investigator for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

"I am looking forward to this opportunity to advance the mission of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food," said Clark. "The Department has a great reputation in Utah and nationally. It is an honor to be associated with this respected agency."

Clark's focus will be to assure that the Division of Regulatory Services uses its resources wisely in order to provide the citizens and industry of this State the highest level of services.



JAPANESE BEETLE DISCOVERY PROMPTS QUARANTINE AND ERADICATION EFFORTS

The Utah Division of Plant Industry is announcing the immediate activation of a Japanese Beetle (JB) eradication program following the discovery of the insect in a small area in Orem, Utah in August. Japanese Beetles are harmless to humans, but are destructive to lawns, fruit trees, plants and various agricultural crops.

"This is a very small infestation," said Plant Industry Director, Clair Allen. "We are asking the public to be aware of this invasive pest and voluntarily help with the control and eradication," he added.

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food inspectors have collected more than 400 beetles in several traps located in a two square mile area in Orem. The area of concern is located within the following boundaries: 800 North Street on the north, I-15 on the west, 400 South on the south, and State Street on the east.

The presence of JB means a threat to lawns, fruit trees, ornamental trees, shrubs, vines, and home gardens. Adult beetles feed on the foliage of the plants and many species of fruit trees. Adults leave behind skeletonized leaves and large, irregular holes in leaves. The grubs develop in the soil, feeding on the roots of various plants and grasses and often destroying turf in lawns, parks, golf courses, and pastures.

Homeowners in the area are encouraged to protect their lawns and gardens by applying an approved insecticide. For information on how to treat for the presence of Japanese Beetle, and a list of products and cautions, visit Japanese Beetle at: www.ag.utah.gov Users are advised to read and follow **label directions exactly!** Questions regarding identifying suspect beetles can be directed to the State Entomologist at: 538-7123. or 538-7184.

The presence of JB in Utah may result in an agricultural quarantine placed on Utah nursery products exported to other states. The quarantine will require agricultural producers to treat their products prior to shipping. Some states may refuse to accept certain agricultural products. The quarantine should not affect Utah fruit exports.



(above) Japanese beetle discovery in Utah County prompts a quarantine and eradication program. If left unchecked, the beetle (left) will destroy millions of dollars worth of trees, lawns and shrubbery.

STATE AND REGIONAL GRAZING ADVISORY BOARDS FORMED

Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Leonard Blackham, announces the appointment of more than 50 individuals to five regional grazing advisory boards. He also appointed 11 individuals to the State Grazing Advisory Board. The board members represent all 29 counties in Utah and will help establish policy regarding livestock grazing on public and private lands. They will also identify specific projects to improve rangeland and watershed conditions.

"I am happy that we now have in place some of the most experienced livestock owners and stewards of the land in the state," said Commissioner Blackham. "We can now move forward with our grazing and watershed improvement plans," he added.

The creation of the regional boards is a result of the passage of the Rangeland Improvement Act this past legislative session. Nominees to the boards were offered by the Utah Woolgrowers Association, the Utah Cattlemen's Association, the Utah Farm Bureau, and local Utah Soil Conservation Districts.

Members of the state and regional boards are:

State Grazing Board

Jay Tanner, Northwest region; Paul McCoy, Northeast Region; Butch Jensen, Southeast Region; Tom Hatch Southwest Region; Andrew Taft, Central Region; Darrell Johnson, At Large Position; Steve Osguthorpe, At Large Position; Mike Styler, Department of Natural Resources; Rulen Gill, oil, gas & mining industries; Stanley Wood, Utah Soil Conservation Commission; and Rex Sacco ex officio member.

Northwest Advisory Board

Calvin Crandall of Springville; Junior Goring of Deweyville; Ken Jordan of Kamas; William Kennedy of Randolph; Kelly Kunzler of Park Valley; Jason Morgan of Morgan; Gail Parker of Ibapah; Brent Rose of Park Valley; Mike Spencer of Yost; and Jay Tanner of Grouse Creek.

Northeast Advisory Board

The members of the Northeast Board are: Peggy Briggs of Manila; Doke Chew of Jensen; Bert DeLambert of Vernal; Mitch Hacking of Vernal; Paul McCoy of Vernal; Todd Moon of Myton; Gordon Moon of Duchesne; Bill Robison of Vernal; and Gwain Snow of Jensen.

Central Advisory Board

Verl Bagley of Loa; Bliss Brinkerhoff of Bicknell; Paul Frischknecht of Manti; Earl Hobby of Fairview; Bill Jaspersen of Goshen; Jack Madsen of Gunnison; Mark Monroe of Scipio; John Nielson of Leamington; Steve Osguthorpe of Park City; Andrew Taft of Bicknell; and Stan Wood of Lyman.

Southwest Advisory Board

William Dalton of Minersville; Dean Eyre of Minersville; Tom Hatch of Panguitch; Raymond Heaton of Alton; Arlin Hughes of Veyo; Dennis Iverson of Washington; Dell LeFevre of Boulder; Wayne Smith of Cedar City; Tom Williams of Cedar City; and Calvin Yardley of Beaver.

Southeast Advisory Board

Earl Gordon of Huntington; John Hanna of Price; Ross Hinkins of Orangeville; Don Holyoak of Green River; Butch Jensen of Price; Wade Jensen of Cleveland; Sandy Johnson of Lake Powell; Charles Redd of La Sal; David Robinson of Monticello; Vic Sacco of Price; Dee Taylor of Moab; and Charlie Tracy of Monticello. To read more about this issue visit GIP at: www.ag.utah.gov

Utah Prepares

Utah Pandemic preparation conference with H.H.S. Secretary, Mike Leavitt

Layton, Utah -- Commissioner Leonard Blackham joined a panel of human health and wildlife leaders to discuss preparations to respond to an Avian flu pandemic. The conference was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Utah Department of Health.

Commissioner Blackham outlined the Department's comprehensive response plan that has been created to specifically address the Avian Flu threat to the state's poultry flocks. The Avian Flu Surveillance and Response Plan includes specific steps government and industry must take, should AI be discovered in Utah commercial poultry flocks. Several of the response plan's key provisions were communicated to the conference audience; such as:

The Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) works closely with the poultry industry and the Division of Wildlife Resources to prevent the introduction of AI.

State and private practice veterinarians routinely inspect commercial poultry farms for signs of bird flu (diarrhea, nasal discharge, decreased egg production, lack of energy and appetite, etc.)

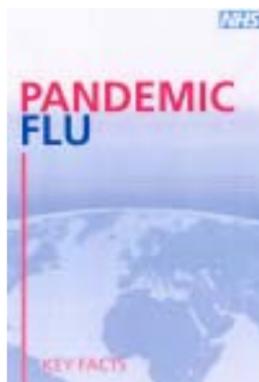
State and federal meat inspectors are on-sight at packing plants, looking for signs of infected birds.

Utah has two Animal Diagnostic Laboratories (Logan, Nephi) that are specially equipped to test dead or dieing birds that might have Avian Influenza.

The UDAF has recently completed an Avian Influenza Surveillance and Response Plan that is a comprehensive document that spells out what we should do to prevent AI from entering the state. The plan also spells out what we would do if we get Avian Influenza in Utah. <http://ag.utah.gov/pressrel/AISurveillancePlan.pdf>

The plan requires:

- Mandatory testing of select birds in commercial bird flocks.
- Any birds brought into the state, either for commercial or domestic purposes, must have a health certificate issued by a veterinarian from the previous location.
- Employees of commercial growers may not own pet birds, or handle birds from other areas.



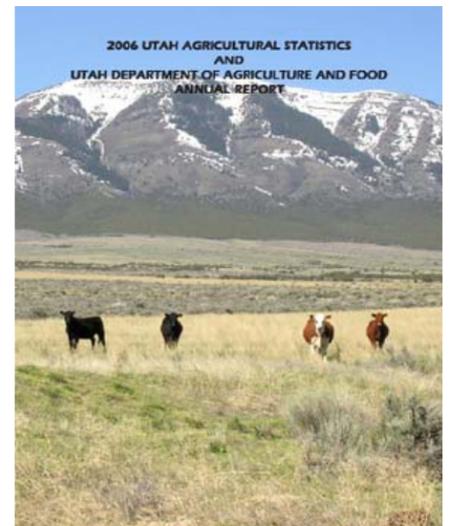
U.S. Health and Human Services Director, Michael Leavitt addresses an audience during the *Utah Prepares* conference in Layton, Utah. Secty. Leavitt said Utah health, agriculture and wildlife leaders should prepare for a possible Avian flu pandemic. He said it was better to be prepared for an emergency that never happens, than to wait for the emergency to occur, and not be ready. He also said citizens should not count on government to meet all their needs during an AI pandemic.

2006 Annual Report and USDA Agriculture statistics now available

The complete report on everything agriculture in Utah. Information on farm size, number of farms, where Utah ranks nationally in tart cherry and other commodity production (answer on pg.33 of report), which county is ranked number one in ag. production (see page 98), and what is ARDL?

For your own copy contact larrylewis@utah.gov.

Can't wait for the hard copy? Visit www.ag.utah.gov and click on Annual Report.



State Vet. Dr. Marshall Takes Extended Leave, Is Honored for Years of Service

UDAF employees honored State Veterinarian Dr. Michael R. Marshall for his 23 years of service during a celebration at the Agriculture and Food Building. Dr. Marshall is taking an extended medical leave from his office.

Dr. Marshall was praised by Commissioner Leonard Blackham as a dedicated and skilled public servant who helped keep the state's livestock industry strong and safe.

The department's directors presented Dr. Marshall with a custom made quilt to show their appreciation for his service. The quilt was selected as a gift because Dr. Marshall likes quilts, but traditionally gave them away to family members after purchasing them at the department's Christmas auction. This quilt, said employee Terry Menlove, was one the doctor could keep for himself.

Testimonials of their appreciation for Dr. Marshall's contribution to the state livestock industry and agriculture were given by representatives from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Utah Veterinary Medicine Association, the Bureau of Land Management, and Brent Tanner of the Utah Cattlemen's Association who spoke on behalf of Utah's producer groups.

"I consider myself very fortunate to have worked in a profession that I enjoyed very much," said Dr. Mike Marshall. "I enjoyed working with animals and with the people of our department, and I enjoyed facing the daily challenges that came with this position. I hope I am remembered as a veterinarian whose decisions were based on sound medicine, not on politics," he added.

Dr. Marshall's departure prompted Commissioner Blackham to appoint Brands Bureau Chief, Terry Menlove as Animal Division Director, Dr. Earl Rogers as State Veterinarian, and Dr. Bruce King Assistant State Veterinarian.

Dr. Marshall's medical leave was prompted by an autoimmune disease process called sarcoidosis that is affecting his lungs. The condition is complicated by sugar diabetes.



(bottom) Dr. Mike Marshall admires the quilt presented to him from UDAF directors.

Top: Commissioner Blackham congratulates Dr. Marshall on nearly 23 years of service.





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NEWS

UDAF and USDA Treat 100,000 B.E. Acres To Control Mormon Crickets

Park Valley, Box Elder County – The 2006 Mormon cricket and grasshopper control program was focused near the Northwestern Box Elder County community of Park Valley, Utah. Nearly 100,000 acres infested with Mormon crickets were targeted for aerial application of the growth inhibitor, Dimilin. Dimilin is specifically formulated to affect crickets and grasshoppers. The spray program lasted about one week.

Forty percent of the infested acres are on private range and crop land. The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture offered to assist landowners by paying from 75 to 90 percent of the cost of the application.

“Because of the high percentage of private property infested this year, we feel it necessary to increase our level of support to those farmers and ranchers,” said Commissioner Leonard M. Blackham. “Many ranchers simply could not afford the cost of treating so many acres,” he added.

Traditionally, just 10 percent of the infested acres in Utah are privately owned. This year that percentage is close to 40.

Crop dusting-type aircraft applied the Dimilin, using GPS (global positioning satellite) guidance technology. The onboard system allows the pilots to more accurately fly over the coverage area.

The U.S.D.A. reports that Box Elder County is Utah’s number one producer of cattle; Utah’s number two producer of sheep; and the state’s number three overall producer of cash receipts from farming in 2004.



Nearly 100,000 acres of Box Elder County rangeland received a dose of Dimilin spray to combat an infestation of Mormon crickets. The UDAF and USDA are working to protect private and public lands from the crop-eating insects. In 2004 Box Elder County ranked first in the state for cattle production.

Utah High School Rodeo Team Crowned National Champions

Utah's high school rodeo team claimed their fifth National Championship during competition in Springfield, IL, July 24 to 30. They competed against 44 states, five Canadian Provinces and Australia. Utah beat out ever strong Texas earning 8860 points and its fifth national crown.

Michelle Johnson from Tremonton earned the title of the NHSRA queen. Utah also had the champion Boys Cow cutter, Adan Banuelos from Dixie Rodeo Team in St. George. He also finished 2nd in the boys all around.

Texas and Utah have dominated the high school rodeo world over the past 11 years with Texas winning 6 titles and Utah winning five.

Shelby Terry, Plymouth placed second in the Saddle Bronc. Natasha Myers, Delta was seconded in pole bending, Hilary Walker, Plain City and Bailee Cannon, St. George finished third and fourth in the goat tying. Other Utah finishers included: Sadie Ream, Payson 15 in girls cow cutting and Nickole Lavery, Lehi finished 20 in the girls cow cutting. Jackson Ream, Payson finished 10 in the boys cutting and tied for 6th in the Rookie All Around. Tori Thacke, Lehi finished 12 in the breakaway roping. Lekelsie Dansie, Cedar Valley finished 16 in the breakaway roping. Harley Atkinson, Oakley finished 11 and Caleb Bennett, Bothwell 12 in the Bareback Riding.

Rhen Richard, Roosevelt finished 16 in the tiedown roping. Tana Myers, Morgan finished 18 in the pole bending. Ryley Johnson, Lehi finished 12 in the steer wrestling. Rhett Anderson, Annabella and Dillon Hoffman, Evanston finished 18 in the team roping. Kascee Jacobs, Central Valley finished 12th in the goat tying. Tag Elliott, finished 12th in the bull riding.



Dallen Atkin competes in the National High School Rodeo Championships. She wrote the following letter to Commissioner Leonard Blackham.

"Dear Commissioner Blackham and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food. I would like to take this time to thank you for supporting me and the many other students athletes that participate in Utah High School rodeo. It's only made possible through people like you that we are able to bring a great family sport like rodeo in to the lives of the Utah high school youth. Thank you for allowing me to chase after my dreams and land among the stars. It could not have been done without your support and effort. Thank you."

Dallen Atkin.

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